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# The Dunes Beat

*The West Hampton Dunes Police Constabulary Association, Inc. Community Newsletter*

www.whdpca.org

November, 2009

## Community Mourns a Loss



Many of you know the Barnes family. They have resided in West Hampton Dunes long before there was a West Hampton Dunes. If you are fortunate enough to live near them you know what kind of neighbors they are. Unfortunately he lost his life on August 25th of this year in a tragic crane accident. He leaves behind his wife Toni and son William. He was a gentleman and loved the community which he grew up in. We spoke with his brother Chris who said the following:  
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## Can We Contact You?

Have you changed your address, telephone number or email recently? Have you recently purchased your home? If the answer to any of these questions is yes please send your updated contact information. It's so important to have this updated (Confidential) information accessible to the department so we can advise you of an emergency or incident at your home. Your updated information can be faxed to the department at (631) 288-7813 or emailed to [policeconstable@optonline.net](mailto:policeconstable@optonline.net).

**West Hampton Dunes**  
**Police Constabulary**  
**Association, Inc.**

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## Winterize Please...



It seems that the winter is here once again. The temperatures have been below freezing on many nights and days for that matter. Any plumbing outside your home or in an area which is not heated is subject to freezing. Your landscaping irrigation, hose bibs, water supply are all the main areas of concern. If you haven't already invested in a Low Temperature Alarm Sensor its well worth the money. This is one way to alert you if the heating system has failed and you can react prior to catastrophic interior water damage. If you have recently purchased your home you should consult with a licensed plumber to have them evaluate your home for these risks. Prevention and preparedness are the key to a worry-free winter.

## Seal Walk

The seals will soon be with us again. If you haven't come out between January through early May then you are truly missing out on an educational and interesting experience. Wear warm clothes, bring your binoculars and be prepared to walk unless you have a Suffolk County Parks Department Outer Beach Permit. At the Western end of the parking lot you will find the entrance to the outer beach road. From there it's approximately a half-mile walk to the camping area with split-rail fencing on the North side overlooking Moriches Bay. At low tides (consult a tide chart prior to your arrival) a sandbar is clearly visible and if you look carefully you will see anywhere from 10 to 30 seals. Most commonly observed are harbor seals followed by harp, hooded and gray seals. If you should come across one on the beach do not approach it. They are all protected species and approaching them can be considered harassment and can put a great deal of stress on the animals and land you in trouble with wildlife officials. On sunny days they are frequently observed molting. This molting process often leaves them with small sores which are irritated by salt water, which is one reason they rest on the beach. The other is that once out of the water their body temperature rises and they are able to molt a bit faster. Even though they appear to be injured they are just fine. If you feel a seal is in fact injured notify a member of the Police Constabulary. We can evaluate the situation and if needed notify the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research.



## Community Mourns a Loss (continued from page one)

(Written by Chris Barnes)

"Billy Barnes was born in the middle of the summer 1960. He spent his earlier years at his grandparents home on Dune Road. As a young boy he continued spending summers in the family home participating in the Westhampton Beach C day camp, visiting friends and cousins at the Swordfish and enjoying being a member of La Ronde beach club. Much of his time was spent waterskiing, surfing, and hobie cat sailing with siblings and friends. There was no television allowed in the Barnes summer home, which dad felt encouraged sports, reading, bonfires, and games amongst friends and families. As Billy got older he was always the force behind getting the other siblings to arrange their mid summer vacations from work to coincide so that we could continue to be together and participate in the Hamptons activities we had grown up loving. Billy always took pride in opening up the house for the season by turning on the water, bar tendering the St Patrick's Day Parade on main street and going for a mid March surf in the ocean. Billy enjoyed the Hamptons for all it had to offer. He shark fished the Atlantic, Skydived over Dune Rd, sat on the dunes with a good book, and even owned his own parasail which he took much pride in sailing inverted over sun bathers lying on the beach. Billy has left behind among many friends and family a loving wife Toni, and a 11 year old son Lil Billy. To no ones surprise Lil Billy (his son) is already an accomplished water-skier, wake boarder, fisherman, and outdoor enthusiast. The siblings have guaranteed to break the parasail out of retirement this coming year, to introduce to Billy's 20 nieces and nephews one of the many activities he loved so much. When you see the chute flying over the beach this summer, think of Billy, but more important think of all the things we are fortunate to have surrounding us, and the friends and community that drives "Summers in the Hamptons" Till we meet again Superman, I hope the other place is as good as the Dunes....."



*1969 Photo depicting the original Barnes children at play on the beach in West Hampton Dunes.*

The Billy Barnes Scholarship Fund has been established and an event has been scheduled on Saturday, March 20th 2010 at the Port Washington Yacht Club in Port Washington, NY. For inquires or to make a reservation go to [www.billybarnessf.org](http://www.billybarnessf.org).

## Bruised Beach

The ocean beach has been hit hard lately. Many storms with heavy winds and unforgiving surf have hit the beach with a vengeance. At first glance it would appear that the beach is in need of immediate repair, but that couldn't be further from the truth. A representative from the US Army Corps of Engineers recently toured the beach with village officials to assess the situation. The representative was glad to report that the beach was handling these frequent storms better than expected. The area which appears to be damaged the most is the secondary dune not the primary dune. This secondary dune is known as the "Sacrificial Dune" which is performing it's job. The beaches in the village are checked daily by the members of the police constabulary and on a regular basis by the mayor and wildlife commissioner (Aram Terchunian) and other various village officials. As in previous years the beach will improve upon arrival of the spring as we prepare for another summer in paradise.



## Suggestions

- Contact your alarm company and make sure they have the proper contact information for the Police Constabulary to ensure a speedy response time.
- Place your house number in a clearly visible location so it can be easily read from the roadway.
- If you think your contact information is outdated or if haven't provided it to us please do so as soon as possible. In the event of an emergency or problem we need to have the correct information to reach you.
- Winterize your outdoor plumbing if you haven't done so already.
- Check out our website at [www.whdpca.org](http://www.whdpca.org) to see this and previous newsletter additions.

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